

Remarks

The Office action mailed July 1, 2003, has been reviewed and carefully considered. The allowance of claims 12-18, 27-31 and 39-45 and the objection to claim 10 is acknowledged. Claim 1 has been amended for purposes of clarification. Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found in the specification at page 6, lines 3-4. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 25 and 40 are amended herein to correct typographical errors. Applicant notes that a preliminary amendment adding new claims 46 and 47 was mailed on April 29, 2003. The present Office action does not mention claims 46 and 47. Claims 46 and 47 are now presented above for consideration. Support for claims 46 and 47 is found in the specification at page 6, line 16.

Claims 1-9, 11, 19-26 and 32-38 have been rejected under §103 over Rothrock. Column 3, lines 28-31, of Rothrock indicates that "[p]olysaccharides should preferably be hydrolyzed to monosaccharides prior to reduction to sugar alcohols." However, there is no mention of the use of any type of hydrolysis catalyst as presently recited in claim 1. In addition, claim 19 states that the hydrolysis catalyst comprises a solid acid or an enzyme, claim 32 also contemplates the use of a solid acid catalyst, and claims 46 and 47 are directed to immobilized enzymes. The use of a solid acid or immobilized enzyme catalyst can avoid downstream contamination in a continuous process (see page 6, lines 16-18). Since Rothrock does not suggest a hydrolysis catalyst, the pending §103 rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is submitted that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Should there be any questions regarding this application, Examiner Price is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

By


Wayne W. Rupert
Registration No. 34,420

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 226-7391
Facsimile: (503) 228-9446